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Now that we have our long-wished-for history of the Red Cross, were I the superintendent of a training school, the "graduates of 1916" would be requested to read Miss Boardman's book, Under the Red Cross Flag at Home and Abroad.

Missouri. P. W.

TRAINING IN ANAESTHESIA

DEAR EDITOR: There is opportunity for one or two graduate nurses to specialize in anaesthesia at the Forsyth Dental Infirmary for Children, three days a week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. At the present time there is a growing demand for nurses in private practice to act as anaesthetists, many prominent surgeons of New York, Rochester and Cleveland as well as some here in Boston have their own nurse attend to this phase of their work, and anyone interested would have a good opportunity to take up the work at the above institution and would have the opportunity to work under a specialist in anaesthesia in the Surgical Department. There is no salary connected with the appointment.

140 The Fenway, Boston. HAROLD DEW. CROSS, D.M.D.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION

DEAR EDITOR: Apropos of your recent editorial on "Caution in Seeking New Fields," may I say something of the advantage to nurses of membership in the W. C. T. U. especially as an introduction in strange places? It introduces them at once to pleasant and often influential friends, who may be of exceeding value if anything unpleasant occurs. This is particularly true of the public health and private nurse. I was once greatly helped by my W. C. T. U. friends in establishing an independent practice when necessarily away from the registry of my own school—Bellevue, New York.

Even greater is the advantage that will come from association with these earnest women, with their wide and diversified lines of work. It will widen our vision and prevent our getting "shoppy," so immersed in our work that we know almost nothing outside, a danger which is very real unless we cultivate a hobby. We need outside interests and there are none more elevated and absorbing than those of the W. C. T. U., which is really another branch of health work.

Some may feel that they cannot take the pledge of the organization because they may have to administer liquors, but there is nothing in the pledge to forbid this. It reads:

"I hereby solemnly promise, God helping me, to abstain from all distilled, fermented and malt liquors, including wine, beer and cider, and to employ all proper means to discourage the use of and traffic in the same."

There is nothing in this to prevent the giving of alcoholic liquors on the order of a physician whom we are in honor bound to obey, and disobedience to whom would be a very improper way of "discouraging the use."

Having signed the pledge makes it easy for nurses to refuse the often kindly urged "stimulant," without offense. We may be laughed at as "straight-laced" but we will be respected and trusted all the more.

In striving to abolish the use of narcotic poisons the W. C. T. U. is engaged in a very important line of preventive health work, which is endorsed by the

highest medical and nursing authorities, as witness the action of Boards of Health, medical and sanitary experts and of our own American Nurses' Association.

Nurses are, by the very nature of their calling, anti-poison workers, therefore they are temperance workers. Why should we not become members of this great and public spirited organization? They will help us, we shall help them in the fight against what we all agree is the "greatest cause of human misery."

It would be well if we of the older ranks would formally connect ourselves with these, our sisters in service, and would encourage young nurses to do the same.

The W. C. T. U. has a Young People's Branch (familiarly called the "Y") admitting young people of both sexes and conducted in a way to appeal to their tastes. I wish these or the regular Unions might be organized in training schools, not as a part of the work, but as an approved recreation. The pupils need diversion of thought in leisure hours and would find pleasure and relaxation in the planning and carrying out of programs and at the same time gain valuable knowledge and be brought into touch with some of the brightest minds and greatest movements of the time. We all know the danger of their becoming "hospital centered" unable to think or talk of anything else in season and out of season, a tendency no rule about not talking of their work will combat as successfully as giving them something else to think about.

Why not broaden their horizon to their present pleasure and profit and future benefit? From a purely selfish point of view it pays to join the W. C. T. U. and from an altruistic point it pays much better, for it adds to our usefulness.

Brooklyn, N. Y. E. BERTHA BRADLEY, R.N.

BLADDER DRAINAGE BY VACUUM METHOD

The Journal of the American Medical Association has an illustrated article for bladder drainage by the vacuum method after suprapubic cystostomy. Marvelous results are recorded. In one case continuous drainage was kept up for twenty-nine days; the abdomen became wet once on the fourteenth day due to a clogging of the catheter, otherwise it was entirely dry. It stated that this ingenious apparatus has revolutionized the technic of urinary drainage, completely transformed the postoperative treatment, changed the condition of the patient from soggy discomfort to cleanly comfort and produced healthy, dry, granulating wounds in place of the unhealthy water-logged wounds, with adherent urinary salts now common. The apparatus is in a single compact form, is automatic, being enclosed within a bottle which need never be uncorked. It requires minimum attention, and its action is not dependent on a water supply in the room, nor on a motor.